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Tomorrow: Clouds,
followed by sunshine

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Ukiah Unified declares emergency over phone outage

By **ROB BURGESS**
The Daily Journal

If you're looking to make a phone call to the Ukiah Unified School District Office any time soon, you

may want to consider stopping by in person instead.

That's because the building currently has only one working phone line.

The communication breakdown was the sole subject scheduled for discussion at the UUSD Board of Education's 15-minute-long emergency session Thursday in the dis-

trict office boardroom.

Steve Turner, UUSD director of maintenance, said the danger inherent in having no outside communication is monumental.

"If there is an emergency we need to be able to call out," he said.

Superintendent Lois Nash said the

See UUSD, Page A-12

RECYCLING TIRES AS ROAD FILL



Field Engineer Andrew Murphy marks progress Thursday on a project where 1,300 tons of shredded tires are used to repair a washed-out section of Marina Drive.

MacLeod Pappidas/The Daily Journal

165,000 tires shoring up Marina Drive

By **BEN BROWN**
The Daily Journal

In an effort to permanently solve landslide problems, a 160-foot section of roadway on Marina Drive is being rebuilt with a novel new source of fill material: tire-derived aggregate made from shredded car tires.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board plans to permanently shore up the road by using 165,000 car tires that have been recycled into road fill.

Joaquin Wright, senior vice president of Kennec Earth Engineering, said the shredded tires will keep the roadway from sliding in the future because the tires are lighter than regular fill dirt.

"The weight is the driving force behind a slide," Wright said.

By reducing the weight of the roadway and fixing drainage problems, Wright said the roadway can be kept stable.

Bob Parker, assistant director for the department of transportation for Mendocino County, said records show the road has slid three times in the last decade, and there are records showing that the road has been resurfaced going back as far as 1965.



Soil covers a new drainage system that sits under 30 feet of layered dirt and shredded tires.

On the west side of Marina Drive, trees that swapped sides of the roadway sometime in the past serve as a reminder of the slides that have damaged the roadway.

The damage Kennec was repairing Thursday is a leftover from the 2006

New Year's flood.

Wright said the roadway was rebuilt in layers, first dirt, then a 10-foot thick layer of tires, then three feet of dirt, then a final five-foot layer of tires that were wrapped in geo-text.

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Residents voice views at UVAP scoping session

Traffic, fire danger, water among the concerns regarding development

By **ROB BURGESS**
The Daily Journal

At the County Administration Building Wednesday, the Mendocino County Planning Team and Leonard Charles and Associates listened as a host of speakers took turns voicing their views on what should be studied in the Environmental Impact Report of the Ukiah Valley Area Plan.

At the Aug. 21 meeting of the county Board of Supervisors, land-use alternatives were chosen for two of the UVAP's biggest discussion areas: Lovers Lane and the former Masonite plant site.

The two hourlong public scoping session began with a short speech by Assistant

Chief Executive Officer Alison Glassey. She said the session was scheduled after that meeting to give citizens a chance to react to the board's decision.

"We wanted to make sure we held this after the board had selected its preferred alternative," she said.

Leonard Charles, of Leonard Charles and Associates, said his company will be drawing up a program EIR, which will look at the overall impact of the various alternatives.

"It does not look at individual projects," he said.

Charles said the purpose of Wednesday's meeting wasn't to allow people to try to influence anyone, but to seek direction on issues that may have previously been overlooked.

"We are not the Board of

See UVAP, Page A-11

UKIAH CITY COUNCIL

Corporation yard cleanup explored

EBA Engineering contract renewed

By **ZACK SAMPSEL**
The Daily Journal

Following concern from council members John McCowen and Phil Baldwin that the city was hastily renewing its contract with EBA Engineering for cleanup of contamination related to underground storage tanks removed from the corporation yard in July 1997, the Ukiah City Council on Wednesday discussed options for cleanup.

Ultimately, the council renewed its contract with EBA Engineering, allowing another \$40,586 for environmental services and cleanup at the 1320 Airport Road yard.

The contract with EBA Engineering was renewed by

a 4-0 vote, with Mayor Mari Rodin absent. The item was originally on the consent calendar, which typically is a list of items considered routine and enacted by a single vote, but McCowen pulled the item for discussion.

"I pulled it from consent because the question came up, 'Why don't we ever bid on this?' I don't think it's a good practice to keep rolling over the same contract to the same firm without competitive bidding," McCowen said. "And for the same reasons staff thinks EBA will do a good job, should put them in a position to win any contract."

Due to the contamination at the corporation yard, the city is required by the North Coast Regional Water Quality

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Farmers Market



Audio slide show
at ukiahdailyjournal.com

1936 Ford vs. street sign: several claim to be driving

Willits man and his wife eventually arrested; their son also said he was driver

The Daily Journal

Two people claimed responsibility for an allegedly drunken driving accident Wednesday night for which a third man was eventually arrested.

According to reports from the

California Highway Patrol, CHP officers responded to a single-vehicle accident on Valley Road east of Hearst Road at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday on reports that a 1936 Ford Convertible had collided with a street sign and ended up in a ditch.

When officers arrived, they found a 52-year-old male passenger from Laytonville in the car, having suffered

See ACCIDENT, Page A-11

Roots of Motive Power Festival this weekend

By **ZACK SAMPSEL**
The Daily Journal

It's full-steam ahead at the Roots of Motive Power at the Mendocino County Museum this weekend. The Roots of Motive Power Festival begins 11 a.m. Saturday, with the Golden Spike Ceremony kicking off the event.

This free-to-the-public event is held annually in September the weekend after Labor Day at

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Accident

Continued from Page A-1

minor injuries but the driver, Ronald Hurley, 49, of Willits, had fled the scene of the accident, according to CHP reports.

Soon after, Ronald Hurley's wife, Abeliene Hurley, 43, and their 17-year-old son arrived on scene and independently claimed to have been driving the car at the time of the accident.

According to CHP reports, the son told the investigating officer that he had not had any passengers in the car at the time of the accident.

"Yes, you did," said Abeliene Hurley, contradicting her son, according to CHP reports.

The investigating CHP officer became suspicious and interviewed mother and son separately and soon determined that neither had been driving the car at the time of

the accident.

After interviewing a witness, CHP officers learned that the driver may have been Ronald Hurley and, with help from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, went to the Hurley residence to interview him.

CHP officers and sheriff's deputies searched the house and found Ronald Hurley hiding in the backyard, according to CHP reports.

CHP officers interviewed Ronald Hurley and arrested him on suspicion of driving under the influence and felony hit-and-run.

Abeliene Hurley was arrested on suspicion of obstructing an investigation and lying to a police officer.

The Hurleys' son was not arrested because of his age, but CHP officers plan to forward the results of the investigation to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office to determine if charges will be filed against him.

Roots

Continued from Page A-1

the Roots facility, which is part of the Mendocino County Museum. Throughout the year preceding, members of Roots work to achieve the goal of having every piece of operable equipment running at the time of the festival.

As the festival begins, plumes of steam and the shrieks of steam whistles will fill the air as a variety of steam-powered equipment is fired up. Families are invited to join the fun as participants will get a chance to see plenty of full-size trains and equipment on display. Some of the other displays include: steam, gas and diesel engines, tractors, antique heavy equipment and class cars.

In addition to the festival a barbecue, scheduled to start around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, is planned at Recreation Grove Park across the street. The barbecue will serve as an

opportunity for the Early Day Gas Engine Society and Bill Rose's Model A Tour group to set up under the oaks. The annual Roots Appreciation Barbecue and Raffle has become a popular part of the festival with the smell of pigs roasting on the spit drawing large crowds as the capstone event to a steam-powered first day of the festival.

The Roots of Motive Power is an all-volunteer organization founded in 1982 to preserve and restore steam- and diesel-powered equipment used in the California North Coast logging industry from the 1850s onward.

The Roots of Motive Power Festival is an all-weekend event with activities and displays planned for Saturday and Sunday. For more information call 459-4350, 459-2600 or visit the Roots of Motive Power Festival Web site at www.rootsofmotivepower.com.

Zack Sampsel can be reached at udjzs@pacific.net.

City

Continued from Page A-1

Control Board to complete quarterly monitoring and sampling of the groundwater. EBA Engineering has provided this service to the city during the life of this project.

All costs involved in quarterly monitoring and sampling are eligible for reimbursement through the claim the city has filed with the State Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. In addition, the city has pollution liability insurance coverage for the corporation yard. Staff therefore expects full reimbursement of all expenses related to this project. To date, with EBA's expertise in submitting reimbursement requests, the city has received 100 percent of the requested total reimbursement of \$420,492 from the State Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund.

Building Inspector David Willoughby explained to the council the need to keep the contract solely with EBA Engineering.

"We would be looking at which consultant would do the best job," Willoughby said. "And as you said, EBA, with its history on this project, will likely be the one. Even without seeing any other proposals it's apparent EBA has the most knowledge on it. I think that EBA is certainly the choice."

Following Willoughby's explanation, McCowen further clarified that his concerns regarded whether or not the city had even previously entered into a bidding process for the project. City Manager Candace Horsley explained that when the project began the city had entered into a bidding process and EBA Engineering had been selected after doing all the background research for the project.

"We work very closely with EBA," Willoughby said. "It's not that we're not involved. Everything with this

goes through staff while we work with EBA. Our staff is very much involved."

With concerns over the bidding process and EBA's project knowledge clearly detailed, Councilman Benj Thomas explained his concerns about the possible rising cost of the project -- a concern Willoughby quickly addressed. Willoughby told the council that EBA had kept prices on the project steady, even with rising inflation rates.

Following Thomas and Willoughby's discussion, Vice Mayor Douglas Crane went on to articulate his thoughts on the project at the request of McCowen.

"I've been asked over the years why we single-source this. The reasons seem to boil down to: they're doing a good job for us, it seems to be reasonably priced, particularly based on the experience on the site, and the fact that it's not our money in the first place helps," Crane said. "We stay with a known quotient and we spend less of our time figuring out how to engage somebody to come out and help us. If it's only one firm we deal with, we have less exposure if a problem does arise. If something goes wrong and they've been in place, then the path to the problem is more identifiable."

Willoughby said he would guess the window for closure on the project was "in the five-year range."

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Tires

Continued from Page A-1

tile fabric and covered in more dirt on Thursday.

The tires are spread on the roadway in one-foot layers and then compacted. Wright said the tires are cheaper to use than other road building materials and require no special equipment.

The project is expected to cost \$740,000.

On Thursday, road workers used heavy equipment to spread dirt over the final layer of tires.

"Pretty soon you won't be able to tell; it'll look like this," Wright said, stamping his foot on the compacted dirt roadway.

Wright said the Marina Drive project is the first of its kind in California. He said it has been used extensively across the country.

"The Maine Department of Transportation does all its slide repair with tire aggregate," Wright said.

California Integrated Waste Management board member Wesley Chesbro was on site Thursday as the final layer of tires was covered with dirt.

"This project represents one of the best ways to recycle some of the 41 million waste tires California generates annually," Chesbro said. "We will help Mendocino County plug a recurring leak in its road maintenance budget by fixing this problem for good."

"We have a responsibility to find a constructive use for these materials rather than let them pile up and create an environmental hazard," he said.

All the tires used in the project came from Waste Recovery West and Shamrock Recycling, two Livermore based recycling companies. California recycles 75 percent of its waste tires, according to CIWMB reports.

Wright said the process has been studied extensively by the California Environmental Protection Agency and does not pose an environmental risk.

"This program wouldn't be doing what it's doing if there was a concern," Wright said.

Kenec is expected to finish final soil cover and road-base work by Sept. 21. After that, Mendocino County will pave the road.

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UVAP

Continued from Page A-1

Supervisors," he said. "Saying something over and over again will not sway me. Everything is getting written down."

Once the public comment portion of the meeting began, an array of subjects were touched upon by speakers.

"I request that the scope of the EIR include traffic," said Mike Sweeney. "You could say you are going to bring in helicopters to mitigate the increased traffic, but there is no feasible plan for the traffic nightmare that will ensue if you go forward with this plan."

Other speakers also addressed concerns over gridlock, but from a different perspective.

"I know there will be traffic studies...but my concern is how the residents will be able to get out if there is a critical fire," said William Carson.

A fire seriously damaged a home in the Deerwood Park neighborhood Tuesday evening. Mendocino County Fire Safe Council Executive

Director Julie Rogers said she spent six hours at the scene in her capacity as a volunteer firefighter.

"What if the fire had spread?," she said.

Rogers said she expected more fires of this kind, with deadlier consequences if similar residential construction was allowed to continue.

"Allowing any further development along Redemeyer and Vichy Springs Road is an invitation to disaster and large loss of life," she said.

With the city of Ukiah practicing voluntary water conservation since the beginning of July, many speakers were concerned about the availability of water for any potential expansion.

"I went to one of these public hearings and they said we can mitigate for anything," said Lisa Sanders. "Well, we can't mitigate for water. We have a scarcity."

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